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Message Text

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66
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 AID-20 DPW-01 EB-11 RSR-01 /114 W
---------- 100391
R 162159Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4662
INFO USDEL JEC PARIS
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12804

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT MILI VS
SUBJECT: PUBLIC DISCONTENT WITH RISING PRICES IN HUE

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL DANANG DATED JULY 16
IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

QUOTE
C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 897

SUBJ: PUBLIC DISCONTENT WITH RISING PRICES IN HUE

1. AT 0900 HOURS JULY 14 SIXTEEN MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE
COUNCIL OF THUA THIEN AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF HUE MARCHED
FROM THEIR OFFICES TO CITY HALL IN HUE TO PRESENT A DECLARATION
PROTESTING AGAINST RISING RICE PRICES. THE DECLARATION WAS
SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMEN OF BOTH REPRESENTATIVE BODIES. THE
DELEGATION TOLD DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF HO VAN CUONG, WHO
RECEIVED THEM, OF THE PEOPLE'S GROWING ANXIETY OVER RICE PRICE
INCREASES AND THAT, UNLESS LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINDS AN EFFECTIVE
WAY OF DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM, THE PEOPLE MAY TAKE
"ACTION" IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.
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2. THE COUNCILMEN BLAME THE RISING PRICES ON INSUFFICIENT
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF THE ECONOMY, BUT THE DECLARATION
PROPOSED NO SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS WHICH THE RESPONSIBLE LOCAL
AUTHORITIES MIGHT EMPLOY.

3. CONGEN COMMENT: THE DEMONSTRATION WAS ORDERLY AND UNDER-
TAKEN WITH THE GVN'S PERMISSION. IT HAD BEEN CAREFULLY PREPARED
FOR DURING NEGOTIATIONS WITH GUONG THE PREVIOUS DAY. DURING
CONSUL GENERAL'S FAREWELL CALLS ON THE TWO COUNCILS JULY 13
ANXIETY OVER RICE PRICES WAS OBVIOUS IN CONVERSATIONS.
SEVERAL OTHER SOURCES DURING HIS VISITS ON THE SAME DAY RE-
PORTED THAT HUE WAR VETERANS ALSO PLAN A DEMONSTRATION, POSSIBLY
WITHOUT PRIOR COORDINATION WITH GOVERNMENT. END COMMENT.
BROWN.
UNQUOTE.
APPLING

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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